



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES  
**JUL - 1 2011**

Honorable Jesús Rivera Sánchez  
Secretary of Education  
Puerto Rico Department of Education  
Post Office Box 190759  
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00919-0759

Dear Secretary Rivera Sánchez:

We have conditionally approved your State's application for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2011 funds under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA Part B). Our conditional approval is based on review of the application submitted by the Puerto Rico Department of Education (PRDE) to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), on May 10, 2011, and the specific assurance from the Commonwealth dated July 1, 2011, including assurances provided in Section II and incorporated by reference to this letter as noted in Enclosure A. In addition, the Commonwealth provided specific assurances that it will:

1. Operate consistently with Part B and applicable regulations;
2. Throughout the period of fund availability for Puerto Rico's grant awards under Part B of the IDEA for FFY 2011, Puerto Rico assures that until such time as Puerto Rico has demonstrated to the United States Department of Education (Department) that it is in full compliance with the requirements of 34 CFR §§76.702; 80.20(a)(2); 80.20(b)(3) and (6); and 80.36(a) for all transportation costs for students with disabilities in the Bayamon Region, no IDEA funds will be used to fund the transportation costs of students with disabilities in the Bayamon Region and that any Commonwealth funds used to fund the transportation costs of students with disabilities in the Bayamon Region will not be included in the total amount used to calculate or measure Puerto Rico's compliance with the State maintenance of effort requirement at 20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(18) and 34 CFR §300.163 in either the current Federal fiscal year or the preceding Federal fiscal years from 2002 to 2010;
3. PRDE will submit documentation to OSEP at least 60 days prior to any use, allocation, accounting, or designation of IDEA Part B funds to pay for the transportation costs of students with disabilities in the Bayamon Region or of any use, allocation, accounting, or designation to include Commonwealth funds used to pay the transportation costs of students with disabilities in the Bayamon Region in the total amount used to calculate or measure Puerto Rico's compliance with the State maintenance of effort requirement at 20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(18) and 34 CFR §300.163. The documentation to be submitted must include an audit report that clearly demonstrates that PRDE is in full compliance with the requirements of 34 CFR §§76.702; 80.20(a)(2); 80.20(b)(3) and (6); and 80.36(a) for all transportation costs of students with disabilities in the Bayamon Region; and
4. The Commonwealth will provide OSEP with a copy of the memorandum notifying the appropriate finance personnel in Puerto Rico and providing any needed instructions for implementation, so that funds received under Part B of the IDEA will not be used to fund transportation services of students with disabilities in the Bayamon Region until such time as Puerto Rico has submitted, and the Department has approved, documentation, including an audit report, demonstrating compliance with the requirements of 34 CFR §§76.702; 80.20(a)(2); 80.20(b)(3) and (6); and 80.36(a) and that any Commonwealth funds used to pay the transportation costs of students with disabilities in the Bayamon Region may not be

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included in the total amount used to calculate or measure Puerto Rico's compliance with the State maintenance of effort requirements at 20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(18) and 34 CFR §300.163.

As set forth in Enclosure D, on June 20, 2011, Department-wide Special Conditions were placed on all Department grants awarded to PRDE, including grants awarded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), to help ensure that Department grant awards are expended by PRDE in accordance with applicable legal requirements, and the appropriate fiscal accountability measures and management practices and controls, including those established by PRDE under the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) among Puerto Rico, PRDE, and the Department, signed on December 17, 2007 and ensure continued progress in meeting the programmatic requirements of Part B of the IDEA. The intent of the Department-wide Special Conditions is to: (1) enhance and develop a system or systems to capture information on personal services contracts and professional services contracts in order to better account for and reconcile federal expenditures; and (2) ensure continued progress and reporting on implementation of the activities required under Part B of IDEA as previously set out in the MOA and the 2007 Compliance Agreement. The reason for doing so and the specific conditions are detailed in Enclosure D.

The Commonwealth must administer these awards both in keeping with the applicable provisions of Federal law and regulations, and with the Department-wide Special Conditions attached to the grant award document. Acceptance by Puerto Rico of these grant awards constitutes an agreement by Puerto Rico to comply with these Department-wide Special Conditions.

Please note that as part of your application for FFY 2011, the Commonwealth has made an assurance, pursuant to 34 CFR §80.11(c), that it will comply with all applicable Federal statutes and regulations in effect during the FFY 2011 grant period. Any changes made by the Commonwealth, after OSEP approval, to information that is a part of the Commonwealth's application, must meet the public participation requirements in 34 CFR §300.165.

Enclosed are the Commonwealth's FFY 2011 grant awards for funds currently available under the Department of Defense and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011 -- P.L. 112-10 for the IDEA Part B Section 611 (Grants to States) and Section 619 (Preschool Grants) programs. These funds are available for obligation by States from July 1, 2011 through September 30, 2013 in accordance with 34 CFR §76.709.

The amount in your award for Section 619 represents the full amount of funds to which you are entitled. However, the amount shown in your award for the Section 611 program is only part of the total funds that will be awarded to you for FFY 2011. Of the \$11,482,200,578 appropriated for Section 611 in FFY 2011, \$2,889,817,578 is available for awards on July 1, 2011, and \$8,592,383,000 will be available for awards on October 1, 2011. Under the Section 611 formula, in a year in which the amount available for allocation to States decreases from the prior year, but is greater than the 1999 level, any amount available for allocation to States above the 1999 level is allocated based on the relative increases in funding that the States received between 1999 and the prior year.

For FFY 2011, the appropriation for the Preschool Grants program is \$373,350,802. Under the Section 619 formula in a year in which the amount available for allocation to States decreases from the prior year, but is greater than the 1997 level, any amount available for allocation to States above the 1997 level is allocated based on the relative increases in funding that the States received between 1997 and the prior year.

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Enclosure B provides a short description of how Section 611 funds were allocated and how those funds can be used. In addition, Table I in Enclosure B shows funding levels for distribution of Section 611 funds and the parameters for within-State allocations.

Enclosure C provides a short description of how Section 619 funds were allocated and how those funds can be used. In addition, Table II in Enclosure C shows State-by-State funding levels for distribution of Section 619 funds.

Section 611(e)(1)(C) of the IDEA provides that “[p]rior to expenditure of funds under this paragraph [section 611(e)(1) concerning funds for State administration], the State shall certify to the Secretary that the arrangements to establish responsibility for services pursuant to section 612(a)(12)(A) are current.” We read this provision to mean that if a State does not have interagency agreements or other arrangements in place to establish responsibility for the provision of services, the State may not expend funds available to the State under section 611(e)(1) [State administration funds] until the State has these agreements or arrangements in place.

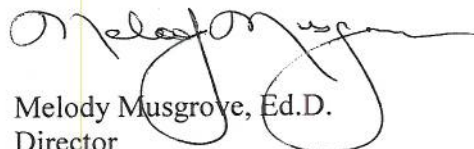
Under section 608(a)(2) of the IDEA, each State that receives funds under IDEA Part B is required to inform in writing local educational agencies located in the State of any State-imposed rule, regulation, or policy that is not required by IDEA or Federal regulations. A State may use the same list of State-imposed rules, regulations, and policies that it was required to submit to the Department in Section IV of its IDEA Part B application for this purpose.

The enclosed grant awards of FFY 2011 funds are made with the continued understanding that this Office may, from time to time, require clarification of information within your application, if necessary. These inquiries may be necessary to allow us to appropriately carry out our administrative responsibilities related to IDEA Part B.

As a reminder, within 30 days of July 1, 2011, all prime recipients of IDEA (Part B or Part C) funds must report subaward information as required by the Federal Financial Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (FFATA), as amended in 2008. FFATA guidance is found at <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/rms-web-conferences.html>. Please contact your State’s Recovery Act Facilitator if you have further questions.

We appreciate your ongoing commitment to the provision of quality educational services to children with disabilities.

Sincerely,



Melody Musgrove, Ed.D.

Director

Office of Special Education Programs

Enclosures

Enclosure A

Enclosure B

Enclosure C

Enclosure D

cc: State Director of Special Education